



# Got Permits?

## A Quick Look at the Permits Needed for Development In or Near Water

Your land development project may require a **state permit** from the **NH Department of Environmental Services** above and beyond any local permits needed, and beyond those DES water-related permits listed here. For projects that do not require a permit, there may be **standards you must follow** during construction. Contact DES at the numbers below. A five-minute phone call could save you time and money!

Prior to ...	When working here ...	You need this approval ...	From ...	Contact ...
Installing a dock or other type of shoreline structure	Any surface water including its banks	Wetlands Permit or Notification	DES Wetlands Bureau	(603) 271-2147 wetmail@des.state.nh.us des.nh.gov/wetlands
Disturbing the bank of any waterbody, e.g., stabilization or construction	Within the banks of any surface water			
Adding sand to a beach or constructing a new beach	Adjacent to any surface water			
Dredge, fill or construction, e.g., culvert installation	Any wetland, tidal buffer zone, stream or sand dune			
Earth moving or excavation of 50,000 sq.ft. or more	Within 250 ft. of public waters or 4th order streams	All of these examples must meet Shoreland Protection Minimum Standards	DES Wetlands Bureau – Shoreland Protection Section	(603) 271-2147 shoreland@des.state.nh.us des.nh.gov/cspa
Applying fertilizer				
Cutting vegetation	Within 150 ft. of public waters or 4th order streams			
Building a new residential structure	Must also be set back behind the primary building line			
Expanding or changing an existing nonconforming residential structure	Within the primary building line setback	Must obtain a waiver from DES		
Tree cutting	Anywhere	Must use best management practices for timber harvesting		
Earth moving or excavation with an impact greater than 50,000 sq.ft.	Within 250 ft. of public waters	Alteration of Terrain Permit	DES Site Specific Program	(603) 271-2303 des.nh.gov/sitespecific
Earth moving or excavation with an impact greater than 100,000 sq.ft.	Anywhere			
Executing a purchase and sales agreement on developed waterfront	Within 200 ft. of tidal waters or a great pond without municipal sewer	Site Assessment Study	DES Subsurface Systems Bureau	(603) 271-3501 des.nh.gov/ssb
Building a residential dwelling, adding bedrooms, or expanding living space	Anywhere not serviced by municipal sewer	Septic System Construction Approval and Operational Approval		
Subdividing land, for single family, condominium, apartment or campground		State Subdivision Approval		
Installing a well closer than 75 ft. to a property line	Anywhere	Must file a recorded well release		
Supplying water for 25+ people 60+ days per year	Anywhere not serviced by a public water supply	Water Supply Engineering Permit	DES Water Supply Engineering Bureau	(603) 271-2513 WSEBinfo@des.state.nh.us des.nh.gov/wseb
Building, reconstructing or making major repairs to a dam	On any dam	Dam Permit	DES Dam Bureau	(603) 271-3406 damsafety@des.state.nh.us des.nh.gov/dam

NH DES • PO Box 95 • 29 Hazen Drive • Concord, NH 03302-0095 (603) 271-3503 • www.des.nh.gov  
Further information is available from the DES Public Information Center at (603) 271-2975 and the DES website.

This chart is intended to include the most common land development project types.  
It is the responsibility of the landowner and contractor to understand the laws and rules of any given project.